

OKLAHOMANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Oklahomans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Oklahoma. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Oklahoma.

INCOME: OKLAHOMANS ARE BARELY EARNING MORE TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Oklahoma was \$ 37,525¹
- In 2005, the median income in Oklahoma was \$ 39,292, a modest increase of 4.7 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN OKLAHOMA CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Oklahoma had 638,000 adults without insurance (18.9 percent).³
- In 2005, Oklahoma had 647,000 adults without insurance (18.4 percent).⁴
- Oklahoma had 108,100 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.⁵

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN OKLAHOMA

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Oklahoma was \$ \$6,000.⁶ In 2005, it was \$8,451, a 41 percent increase.⁷
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Oklahoma was \$ \$15,397.⁸ In 2005, it was \$19,168, a 24 percent increase.⁹
- Number of Oklahomans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 38,421¹⁰
- Number of Oklahomans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 36,273¹¹

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR OKLAHOMA RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Oklahoma was \$1.309.¹²
- Today the average cost of gas in Oklahoma is \$2.137.¹³
- In 2001, the average cost of gas for a household in Oklahoma was \$1,875.¹⁴
- Today the average cost of gas for a household in Oklahoma is \$3,062, \$1,186 (63.3 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁵

SOCIAL SECURITY: OKLAHOMANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Oklahoma – 623,160¹⁶
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Oklahoma – \$839¹⁷

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: OKLAHOMANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of Oklahomans killed in Iraq – 46¹⁸
- Number of Oklahomans wounded in Iraq – 321¹⁹
- Number of Oklahomans killed in Afghanistan – 6²⁰
- Number of Oklahomans wounded in Afghanistan – 14²¹
- Number of Veterans in Oklahoma – 355,312²²

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING OKLAHOMA'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 252 estates in Oklahoma paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²³
- Only 45 estates in Oklahoma will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁴
- In contrast, 113,000 workers in Oklahoma would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁵

CRIME: VIOLENT CRIME IN OKLAHOMA IS ON THE RISE

- Number of Violent Crimes in Oklahoma per 100,000 people in 2000 – 497.8²⁶
- Number of Violent Crimes in Oklahoma per 100,000 people in 2005 – 508.6²⁷
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – \$8,640,507²⁸
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – \$2,895,377²⁹

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST OKLAHOMANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Oklahomans.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Oklahoma residents each received an average of \$2,150 in tax cuts, while middle class Oklahoma residents received only \$389.³⁰
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Oklahoma residents will receive an average of \$27,715 in tax cuts, while middle class Oklahoma residents will only receive \$691.³¹
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Oklahoma residents will each receive an average of \$56,444 in tax cuts, while middle class Oklahoma residents will only receive \$806.³²

The richest Oklahomans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest Oklahomans received 5.3 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 19.6 percent of the tax cut.³³
- But, in 2006, the richest Oklahomans will get 23.6 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 11.9 percent of the tax cut.³⁴
- And, in 2010, the richest Oklahomans will get 42.0 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 12.0 percent of the tax cut.³⁵

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Oklahomans.

- In 2010, the richest Oklahomans will receive an average of \$7,938 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Oklahomans will be getting over 51.0 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁶
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Oklahomans will receive an average of \$27 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 3.5 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁷

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